

Intercontinental Terminals Co LLC Fire – Deer Park, TX

Background:

- *At approximately 10:20 am local time on March 17, 2019, Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC (ITC) discovered a tank on fire and reported the incident to the National Response Center. EPA activated the Response Duty Officer to respond. A total of fifteen (15) tanks could have been potentially involved in the fire, which began in a tank of naphtha in the middle of the tank battery.*

Key Points:

- *What does the Administrator need to know about this issue?*
- *EPA has been in unified command with federal (United States Coast Guard - USCG), state (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality - TCEQ) and local (Harris County) officials to assist in the response. EPA, working with USCG and TCEQ has focused on environmental issues including air monitoring and water run-off issues.*
- *Are there political sensitivities?*
- *There are environmental justice areas within the area of the plume, which have received additional air monitoring to ensure the constituents of the plume are below action levels.*
- *Is the Agency planning any major actions on the specific topic?*
- *EPA and TCEQ will continue to conduct air monitoring and water sampling during the emergency phase as well as reviewing results from monitoring by the State and responsible party.*
- *What, if any, are the risks with this issue?*
- *It is important to share the monitoring results with the public and state/local officials so that appropriate decisions can be made concerning public safety.*

Talking Points:

- *While all air monitoring results have been below established action levels, EPA and State officials have encouraged individuals with any health concerns to contact their health care professionals or the local Poison Control Center for guidance.*
- *While the extinguishing of the tank fires will mark the end of emergency response actions, EPA will continue to work with state and local officials to ensure that cleanup operations are conducted in compliance with relevant statutes and regulations.*
- *EPA would like to commend the efforts of The Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) entities which worked tirelessly to help in extinguishing the fires before they could spread to adjoining tank farms, thus reducing the overall response and environmental threat.*